

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 1. (currently amended) A portable camera device capable of operation with a
2 host platform, the portable camera device comprising:
3 a housing;
4 a ~~coupling device for~~ USB plug integrally adapted to the housing of the portable
5 camera device to facilitate direct coupling of the portable camera device via the USB plug to
6 a serial-bus-USB socket of the host platform;
7 a non-volatile memory in communication with said ~~coupling device~~ USB plug;
8 a digital camera, integrally formed with said non-volatile memory, for capturing
9 image and/or audio information, said non-volatile memory capable of storing said image
10 and/or audio information; and
11 a microprocessor for at least in part formatting said image and/or audio information in
12 a standard image and/or audio file format compatible with the host platform.

1 2. (currently amended) A portable camera device as recited in claim 1, said non-
2 volatile memory comprising flash memory.

1 3. (currently amended) A portable camera device as recited in claim 1, said
2 ~~coupling device~~ USB plug capable of coupling to a USB port of the host platform.

1 4. (currently amended) A portable camera device as recited in claim 1, said
2 standard image and/or audio file format comprising a JPEG file format.

1 5. (currently amended) A portable camera device as recited in claim 1, said
2 standard image and/or audio file format comprising a GIF file format.

1 6. (currently amended) A portable camera device as recited in claim 1, said
2 standard image and/or audio file format comprising a PICT II file format.

1 7. (currently amended) A portable camera device as recited in claim 1, said
2 standard image and/or audio file format comprising an MPEG file format.

1 8. (currently amended) A portable camera device as recited in claim 1, further
2 comprising a power supply circuit for receiving power from the host platform and providing
3 said power to components of the portable camera device.

1 9. (currently amended) A portable camera device as recited in claim 1, further
2 comprising a power source for providing power to components of the portable camera device.

1 10. (currently amended) A portable camera device capable of operation with a
2 host platform, the portable camera device comprising:

3 a housing;

4 ~~a coupling device for~~ USB plug integrally adapted to the housing of the portable
5 camera device to facilitate direct coupling of the portable camera device via the USB plug to
6 a serial-bus-USB socket of the host platform;

7 a non-volatile memory in communication with said ~~coupling device-USB plug~~;

8 a digital camera for capturing image and/or audio information, said non-volatile
9 memory capable of storing said image and/or audio information; and

10 a flexible communications cable for coupling said ~~digital-portable camera device via~~
11 the USB plug to said non-volatile memory-USB socket of the host platform, said flexible
12 communications cable allowing said ~~digital-portable camera device~~ to move with respect to
13 said ~~non-volatile memory-host platform~~.

1 11. (currently amended) A portable camera device as recited in claim 10, further
2 comprising a microprocessor for at least in part formatting said image and/or audio
3 information in a standard image and/or audio file format compatible with the host platform.

1 12. (currently amended) A method of capturing image and/or audio information
2 and uploading the image and/or audio information to a host platform, comprising the steps of:
3 (a) capturing image and/or audio data using a portable camera device, said
4 portable camera device having a housing and a USB plug integrally adapted to the housing to
5 facilitate direct coupling of the portable camera device via the USB plug to a USB socket of
6 the host platform;
7 (b) digitizing said image and/or audio data captured in said step (a);
8 (c) processing said image and/or audio data digitized in said step (b) into a form
9 compatible with the host platform; and
10 (d) uploading said image and/or audio data from the portable camera device to the
11 host platform via a coupling of the USB plug to a serial-port USB socket of the host platform.

1 13. (original) A method of capturing image and/or audio information as recited in
2 claim 12, further comprising a step (e) of storing said image and/or audio data in a volatile
3 memory.

1 14. (currently amended) A method of authenticating an operator seeking access to
2 information on a storage medium, comprising the steps of:
3 (a) capturing image and/or audio identification data via a digital camera, said
4 digital camera having a housing and a USB plug integrally adapted to the housing to facilitate
5 direct coupling of the digital camera via the USB plug to a USB socket of a host platform;
6 (b) comparing at least portions of said image and/or audio identification data
7 against a template stored in a memory; and
8 (c) allowing access to the information if the image and/or audio identification data
9 matches the stored template upon comparison in said step (b).

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